

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01313 151118Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 SAJ-01 AID-05 DHA-02

/077 W

-----151120Z 046525 /11

O R 150910Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2145

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1313

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KNCC ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUE

REF: (A) SEOUL 278, (B) SEOUL 382

SUMMARY: KNCC STATEMENTS SUPPORTING CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN KOREA AND RENEWING CALL FOR GREATER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA HAVE RENEWED STRAINS IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS. TEXTS OF STATEMENTS ARE BEING TRANSLATED INTO OFFICIAL ENGLISH VERSIONS BY KNCC AND WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN COMPLETED. END SUMMARY

1. SINCE MID-JANUARY THE KNCC HAS BEEN IN THE THROES OF PREPARING STATEMENT OPPOSING THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM KOREA. ACCORDING TO KIM KWAN-SUK, SEC GEN OF THE KNCC, THE KNCC, OF COURSE, BELIEVES U.S. TROOPS ARE IMPORTANT FOR KOREAN SECURITY AND INDEED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE IN THE AREA. HOWEVER, THE EVENT WHICH PROMPTED THE KNCC TO PREPARE STATEMENT OF ITS OWN WAS PRESIDENT PAK'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 12 (SEE REFTELS) IN WHICH PRESIDENT STATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS IF NORTH KOREA WOULD ACCEPT A NON-AGGRESSION PACT. THIS WAS SEEN BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01313 151118Z

THE KNCC AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD A GO-IT-ALONE POLICY FOR THE ROKG. IN KNCC EYES SUCH A POLICY WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR KOREA, AND WOULD BE USED BY PAK TO MAINTAIN HIS GRIP ON POWER, FURTHER REGIMENT THE NATION AND DASH ANY HOPE FOR THE EVENTUAL EXERCISE OF DEMOCRACY.

2. THE KNCC WISHED TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD

ENCOURAGE THE U.S. TO MAINTAIN GROUND FORCES BUT WHICH WOULD AT THE SAME TIME KEEP UP INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON THE ROKG TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS. UPPER COUNCILS OF THE KNCC CAME AROUND TO THE IDEA OF SENDING THREE OPEN LETTERS: ONE TO THE U.S. COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (USCC), ONE TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND ONE TO PRESIDENT PAK. THE LETTERS WOULD VARY ACCORDING TO THE ADDRESSEE, BUT WOULD INCLUDE THREE BASIC THEMES: THEY WOULD ASK THAT U.S. TROOPS BE RETAINED IN KOREA. THEY WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE ROKG STILL VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS AND SHOULD MODIFY ITS POLICIES PROMPTLY. FINALLY, TO DEMONSTRATE CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE KNCC WAS NOT IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH ROKG POLICY IN ANY WAY, THEY WOULD DEPLORE THE PARK TONG-SUN CASE AND DEMAND THAT THE ROKG TAKE URGENT ACTION TO REMOVE THE HARM DONE KOREA'S IMAGE BY THIS SCANDAL.

3. KIM KWAN-SUK SAID THAT THE ROKG BECAME AWARE OF THE KNCC'S INTENTIONS VERY EARLY. AUTHORITIES REQUESTED THAT ONLY ONE LETTER BE PREPARED, THE ONE FROM THE KNCC TO THE USCC, AND THAT ALL REFERENCE TO PARK TONG-SUN BE DELETED. GOVERNMENT PRESSURE WAS STEADY AND INCLUDED BOTH CARROT AND STICK. ROKG OFFICIALS OFFERED THEIR PERSONAL ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD "DO THEIR UTMOST TO SEE THAT SOME POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE FREED SOON" IF THE KNCC WOULD ADOPT THEIR SUGGESTIONS. KCIA OFFICIALS INFORMED KIM KWAN-SUK AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE KNCC BOARD THAT THEY WOULD CLEARLY VIOLATE EM-9 AND OPEN THEMSELVES TO PROSECUTION UNLESS THE TEXTS OF THE LETTERS WERE TONED DOWN.

4. THE FINAL TEXTS OF THE LETTERS WERE APPROVED BY THE KNCC BOARD FEBRUARY 7. AS A COMPROMISE WITH THE ROKG, THE KNCC AGREED THAT THE TEXTS OF THE LETTERS TO PRESIDENTS PAK AND CARTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 01313 151118Z

WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL -- THAT IS THAT THE KNCC WOULD NOT RELEASE THEM TO THE PRESS. THE LETTER TO THE USCC WOULD BE PUBLIC (TO BE RELEASED AFTER OFFICIAL TRANSLATION). THERE WERE SOME CHANGES IN WORDING OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFTS, BUT KIM FELT THIS WAS DONE TO MAKE THE TEXTS BETTER REFLECT THE KNCC'S INTENTIONS RATHER THAN APPEASE THE ROKG.

5. ON FEBRUARY 9, THE KNCC ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE TELLING THE PUBLIC THAT THE BOARD HAD APPROVED STATEMENTS ON U.S. TROOP PRESENCE WHICH WOULD BE SENT TO THE USCC, PRESIDENT PAK AND PRESIDENT CARTER. NO TEXTS WERE DISTRIBUTED.

6. THE KNCC ASKED THE EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT THE TEXT OF THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER, THE LETTERS TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND TO THE USCC ARE STILL BEING TRANSLATED BY THE KNCC. THEY WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED.

7. KIM FEELS STATEMENTS HAVE CREATED STRAINS IN ROKG-KNCC RELATIONS. HE IS ALSO AFRAID THAT U.S. SUPPORTERS OF KNCC FIGHT FOR HUMAN

RIGHTS MIGHT NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD KOREANS' DESIRE TO SEE U.S.
TROOPS REMAIN IN FACE OF NORTH KOREAN THREAT AND MIGHT INTERPRET
KNCC STATEMENT AS A SELL-OUT TO ROKG.

8. BLUE HOUSE SOURCE INFORMED POLCOUNS THAT ROKG NOT ALARMED BY
KNCC STATEMENTS, AND PLANS NO (RPT NO) PUNITIVE ACTION. SOURCE
INDICATED THAT ROKG PLANNED NO CONCESSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN
NEAR FUTURE BUT MIGHT DO SO LATER IF PUBLIC SECURITY SITUATION
REMAINS STABLE THROUGH SPRING. IN MEANTIME, SECURITY FORCES WILL
REMAIN ALERT TO FRUSTRATE ANY ATTEMPTS DISTURB PUBLIC ORDER.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL01313
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770053-0515
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770240/aaaabjjz.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1d394bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 278, 77 SEOUL 382
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3318208
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KNCC ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUE
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, MARR, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1d394bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009